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# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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## ŠKODA customers again successful around the world in a challenging rally season 2020

- › 14 international, regional and national titles conquered by private ŠKODA crews
- › Team Toksport WRT claimed the WRC2 Team Championship of the FIA World Rally Championship 2020
- › In a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, Barry McKenna and co-driver James Fulton from Ireland won the ARA National Championship Trophy in the USA
- › ŠKODA Motorsport Director Michal Hrabánek: “Congratulations to all private ŠKODA teams around the world. Their success shows, our new customer strategy paid off.”

**Mladá Boleslav, 18 December 2020 – As many other racing series, the world of rallying as well was heavily affected by the fight against the spread of COVID-19. While in some countries national championship series had to be suspended, the FIA World Rally Championship 2020 managed to run seven rounds and the FIA European Rally Championship took place as well. Wherever rallying activities were possible, ŠKODA customers could rely on the support from the ŠKODA Motorsport headquarter in Mladá Boleslav. Outstanding among the 14 international, regional and national titles achieved in 2020, Team Toksport WRT managed to win the WRC2 Team Championship of the FIA World Rally Championship 2020.**

During the 2020 season, the focus of ŠKODA Motorsport more than ever was on supporting customers and private teams. For example, former factory driver Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR) made a welcome return to the world of rallying. Driving a privately entered ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, he won the Rally Hungary, penultimate round of the FIA European Rally championship, and added victory in WRC3 category at ACI Rally Monza, final round of the FIA World Rally Championship. Pontus Tidemand (SWE) missed his second WRC2 title after 2017 with the small margin of only four points. Thanks to three category victories, the Swede nevertheless helped Team Toksport WRT to win the WRC2 Team Championship of the FIA World Rally Championship 2020.

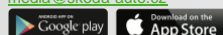
In WRC3, the FIA World Rally Championship category reserved for private crews, Kajetan Kajetanowicz/Maciej Szczepaniak from Poland added one victory and several good results to their scoring board, finishing the championship in third place ahead of ŠKODA Motorsport supported Oliver Solberg (SWE) and co-driver Aaron Johnston (IRL), who showed a steady learning curve throughout the 2020 season. Among the 14 titles and trophies, ŠKODA customers won in 2020, one success is a historical landmark for the Czech brand: Barry McKenna and James Fulton from Ireland won the ARA National Championship Trophy in the USA, the first ever such title for the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo.

In some countries, the national championship was so heavily affected by the fight against the spread of the coronavirus, that the respective titles were not officially awarded.

Still, the ŠKODA FABIA, in Rally2 and Rally2 evo version, proves to be the most successful rally car of its category. So far, 372 rally FABIA have been sold to customers around the world, who won 1,255 rallies and achieved 2,948 podium positions.

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## Three questions to Michal Hrabánek, Director ŠKODA Motorsport:

### Mr. Hrabánek, 2020 was really a challenging year, what is your summary?

**Michal Hrabánek:** The first lockdown this year, caused by the fight against COVID-19/coronavirus, forced us into a break. Nevertheless – even during the shutdown – we did not suspend the ordering process for ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo cars and spare parts. Deliveries did not stop at any time; we were sending parts out of our stock even to South America. The communication to our customers was and is constantly ongoing as well.

### How much did this situation affect the world of rallying?

**Michal Hrabánek:** The COVID-19/corona crisis already has a huge effect on our private and professional lives. It is affecting motorsports as well, especially concerning calendars, budgets and sponsoring activities. On the other hand, until today we sold 46 cars in 2020, which totals to 372 ŠKODA FABIA sold to customers around the world. At the moment, roughly more than 1,000 Rally2 cars of all brands exist around the world. This impressive number shows crystal clear, that this category offers a great value for money – what is even more important in challenging economic times.

### Why did you choose to switch from an official manufacturer involvement in the FIA World Rally Championship to a strategy of supporting private drivers?

**Michal Hrabánek:** The progress of the 2020 season proves that we are right. We decided to focus on customer teams and to strengthen the cooperation with them by offering even better services. In 2021, we will continue with this strategy. Congratulations to all private ŠKODA teams around the world. Their success shows, our new customer strategy paid off.

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## Championship wins of ŠKODA FABIA 2020

### FIA World Rally Championship/WRC 2 Teams Championship:

Toksport WRT

### FIA North American and Central American Rally Championship (NACAM):

Ricardo Triviño/Marc Martí (MEX/ESP)

### National championships:

**Bulgaria:** Miroslav Angelov/Georgi Gadzhev (BGR/BGR)

**Finland:** Teemu Asunmaa/Jani Salo (FIN/FIN)

**Greece:** Ionannis Papadimitrou/Nikolaos Petropoulos and Giorgos Polizois (GRC/GRC)

**Lithuania:** Vaidotas Žala/Andris Mālnieks (LTU/LVA)

**Mexico:** Ricardo Triviño/Marc Martí (MEX/ESP)

**Namibia:** Allan Martin/Maretha Olivier (NAM/NAM)

**Norway:** Anders Grøndal/Marius Fuglerud (NOR/NOR)

**Portugal:** Armindo Araújo/Luís Ramalho (PRT/PRT)

**Romania:** Simone Tempestini/Sergiu Itu (ITA/ROM)

**Russia:** Vasiliy Gryazin/Yaroslav Fedorov und Dmitry Lebedik (RUS/RUS)

**Slovakia:** Grzegorz Grzyb/ Michał Poradzisz (POL/POL)

**USA:** Barry McKenna/James Fulton (IRL/IRL)

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## Media images:



### ŠKODA Motorsport customer crews 2020

With a privately entered ŠKODA FABIA Rally2, Norwegians Andreas Mikkelsen and Anders Jæger won the ERC round Rally Hungary and the WRC3 category at ACI Rally Monza, final round of the FIA World Rally Championship 2020.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



### ŠKODA Motorsport customer crews 2020

ŠKODA Motorsport supported, 19 years young Oliver Solberg (SWE) and co-driver Aaron Johnston (IRL) achieved remarkable results in the FIA World Rally Championship 2020 with their ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



### ŠKODA Motorsport customer crews 2020

Pontus Tidemand/Patrik Barth (SWE/SWE) helped Team Toksport WRT to win the WRC2 Team Championship of the FIA World Rally Championship and drove their ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo to second overall in the WRC2 drivers' category.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



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## ŠKODA Motorsport Overview

2019 was the most successful year in the history of ŠKODA Motorsport so far. Kalle Rovanperä and Jonne Halttunen (FIN/FIN) won the WRC 2 Pro drivers' and co-drivers' title of the FIA World Rally Championship 2019 as well as substantially supporting ŠKODA Motorsport to win the WRC 2 Pro manufacturers' title. Also in 2019, ŠKODA customer teams conquered five FIA championships and took additional 23 national titles around the world.

Driving a ŠKODA FABIA R5, Chris Ingram/Ross Whittock (GBR/GBR) won FIA European Rally Championship (ERC). Filip Mareš/Jan Hloušek (CZE/CZE) took the FIA European Rally Championship/ERC1 Junior title. Manvir Singh Baryan/Drew Sturrock (KEN/GBR) powered a ŠKODA FABIA R5 to the FIA African Rally Championship (ARC), while Ricardo Triviño/Marc Martí (MEX/ESP) won the FIA North American and Central American Rally Championship (NACAM).

The ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, a high-tech 4x4, was homologated by the International Automobile Federation FIA on 1 April 2019 and is successfully continuing the long tradition of ŠKODA Motorsport. In total, both generations of the Czech rally car have been sold more than 320 times worldwide.

ŠKODA has been successful on the motorsport scene since 1901. Be it on the circuit or in rallies, ŠKODA has celebrated victories and won titles all around the world. Historical highlights include winning the title in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2) for the first time in 2016, numerous title wins in the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC) and the Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC), as well as the victory in the European Touring Car Championship in 1981. ŠKODA teams have also triumphed in the world's oldest and most famous rally, taking several class victories in the legendary Monte Carlo, which was first held in 1911.

## ŠKODA AUTO

- › is this year celebrating 125 years since the company was founded during the pioneering era of the automobile in 1895, making it one of the longest-established car manufacturers in the world.
- › currently offers its customers ten passenger-car series: the CITIGO<sup>e</sup> iV, FABIA, RAPID, SCALA, OCTAVIA and SUPERB as well as the KAMIQ, KAROQ, KODIAQ and ENYAQ iV.
- › delivered 1.24 million vehicles to customers around the world in 2019.
- › has belonged to Volkswagen Group since 1991. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world. In association with the Group, ŠKODA AUTO independently develops and manufactures vehicles, as well as components such as engines and transmissions.
- › operates at three locations in the Czech Republic; manufactures in China, Russia, Slovakia and India mainly through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine and Kazakhstan with local partners.
- › employs approximately 42,000 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.
- › is pressing ahead with the transformation from a traditional car manufacturer to the 'Simply Clever company for the best mobility solutions' as part of the ŠKODA 2025 Strategy.

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